

REIGATE & REDHILL NORTH DOWNS MOTOR CLUB REIGATE & REDHILL NORTH DOWNS MOTORCYCLE CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 15th FEBRUARY 2012 AT THE RED LION, OLD REIGATE ROAD, BETCHWORTH

Present

Paul Brightman, Samuel Brightman, Dave Charman, Tom Charman, Eric Clarke, Malcolm Coles, Richard Coles, Bob Collins, Carol Dark, Chris Dark, Grace Dark, James Dark, Scott Dark, Colin Don, Debbie Don, Katie Don, Matt Don, Ben Edwards, Rob Edwards, Danny Haste, Mike Hammond, Curtis Howell, Martin Howell, Trevor Howell, Rob McKenzie, Rick Parish, Antony Read, Mark Wood.

Chairman's Welcome

Richard welcomed everyone and explained that RRND comprised of two different Clubs, ACU and AMCA, and normally we would have two different agendas, but for ease we had decided to have one combined agenda.

Apologies for Absence

Keith Cross, Jo Jenkins, Pete Jenkins, Stuart Read, Mark Stubberfield.

Minutes of AGM held on 15th February 2011

Posted on the website and approved. Proposed by Malcolm Coles and seconded by Danny Haste.

Matters Arising

Last year we agreed an honorarium of £250 to be paid to Bruce for the running of the website. However, although very grateful he has decided that he would be happy to accept an invitation for him and his family to the camping weekend instead.

At this point, Richard also thanked Rick Parish, who continues to do the club's accounts for no reward other than a bottle of wine.

Matters to discuss and agree with members

- Richard told the members that the committee are investigating the possibility of limited company status for the club and asked if anyone had any objections. Rick's advice was sought and he highly recommended this explaining that it would protect committee members in circumstances such as hiring things for the club use for which they could be held personally liable. He further added that initial costs would be £80 for a Certificate of Incorporation and approx £100 per year after that. Accounts would also have to be filed at Companies House. No objections were raised.
- Now that committee meetings and club nights are being held separately Richard asked members which night they would prefer. After discussion the first Thursday of each month was agreed.
- Richard advised the members that club funds had diminished slightly and that the committee were trying to cut costs. Despite this the club would continue to subsidise members by maintaining current costs but if need be would increase fees to guest riders.

- Having been advised of the proposed new 'club rules and regulations' for both the ACU and AMCA clubs, copies were available for members to see. Debbie explained the changes, in ordering, flexibility, notice requirements and the general updating and thanked Antony Read for his involvement in reviewing them. The adoption of the new rules was proposed by Antony and seconded by Danny, to be adopted immediately and posted on the website. Paper copies would also be available on request.

Committee Reports:

Editor's Report

The E News system has continued to work successfully over the past year – albeit there have been some small glitches at times, which the E News system provider Jarrett and Lam, have quickly resolved.

During 2011, there were only 8 copies that needed to be printed and posted each month. You will probably hear elsewhere tonight that the use of the E News system has enabled a very significant cost saving over the previous printed magazines, to the extent it has largely contributed to there having been no increase in the membership fees or entry fees for trials. It has been encouraging that recently, several members who are not Committee members have contributed articles for inclusion, and I think you will agree, these articles have made interesting reading. I would encourage all of you to submit articles etc for publication. Just pop them in an e mail to me – don't worry about any fancy formatting etc – it's actually easier to pick them up from the text of an email rather than word processing programs, although I am grateful to receive items in any format!

I would like to highlight our wonderful website at www.rrnd.co.uk, very ably run by Bruce Deacon. All the E News are posted onto the website, and having checked today, you can find Club Magazines and articles going back to 1999! Well worth a look through if you get a moment.

Finally, please remember to let both Rob Edwards and myself know of any change to your e mail address, so our records can be updated, and so that you continue to receive information from the Club.

Richard thanked Debbie for her work on the e-news and also the messages and reminders she sends out to members throughout the year.

Treasurer's Report for year ending 30th September 2011

Read by Richard in Jo's absence

Following on from last year, this year has been quite tight financially. Due to the general increase in land cost and insurance, club trials have generally made a small loss. Also there has been a small drop in membership. With this in mind, the committee has discussed various options and it was felt that due to the general economy we would be hard pushed to put up the cost of trials.

The option we have plumped for is to use some of the clubs capital to subsidise the general running of trials for a short period, we have put off increasing cost until the Tracker account reaches £10,000 then we will look again at how to raise income.

This year we have had the full benefit of the e-news running without any start up costs, also Colin is putting a lot of effort into speaking to and negotiating with the land owners so we will be paying more reasonable land cost. We also have a better system put place to help me with the takings from trials and with all these options in place we are sure this coming year will prove less of a strain on the finances.

May I thank Rick Parish once again for preparing and auditing the accounts.

Richard thanked Jo and also Rick, for preparing the accounts.

Copies of the accounts were circulated and Rick added his recommendation to not letting the reserve funds drop below £10,000 in case something goes wrong and we are ever faced with an uninsured claim.

Eric asked if the South Coast Trial was included as he was sure this had made a good profit. It was, but other trials had incurred losses of around £20-£30 partly due to around £6 per rider for insurance. Antony queried losses as guest riders had increased and suggested fixed price venues where we don't get enough riders contributed to this.

Colin explained that some landowners will negotiate lower costs when we have a poor turnout and told members the cost of each of our venues.

Membership Secretary's Report

By the end of 2011 there were 101 members, the lowest in ten years. This was made up of 67 adults, 24 juniors and 10 honorary members

During the year the club has done several things to try and raise the profile in the hope of attracting new members and Dave Charman again manned a static display at the Reigate sports festival. The club did attract several new members through training trials during the year, either returning to the sport after a number of years or taking the sport up for the first time; however we have now suspended running these due to the low turnout making them uneconomical to continue in the immediate future.

At the November club trial membership renewal forms were handed out but this does not seem to have prompted the response it did last year as so far in 2012 there has been only 59 renewals compared to 72 club members by the AGM last year.

Richard thanked Rob for his efforts.

Competition Secretary's Report

Last year this position was not filled but covered by Richard and Malcolm Coles and Pete Jenkins and Colin started by thanking the team for this.

As the 2011/2012 season ends, it is worth reflecting that the Club has successfully run 11 Club trials, 2 Group trials and several training trials, as well as some evening trials, and a camping weekend – a considerable amount of work has been undertaken to make all this happen.

In addition, members have ridden at Group level and been successful in long distance trials and in enduro events.

In the position of acting Competition Secretary, I would say that the 2012/2013 season sees the normal challenges to the Club and its membership with another full calendar of Club and Group trials. At this time training trials have not been added to the schedule in an attempt to encourage newer riders to attend our normal Club trials.

Following last year's survey, a new concept for this year is the running of 2 Saturday Club trials, starting later than usual and with a BBQ afterwards. Hopefully members will enjoy these, and it will add a more social dimension to the Club.

We are also trying to establish laying out teams for Club trials, details of which were in the most recent E News, so I won't go into details now. If anyone would like to join a team, please see me afterwards.

A word on costs – entry costs are the same as last year but membership support of events is crucial especially at the more expensive venues – it cannot be right that we receive more guest riders at an event than members, as happened recently. We can only contain costs if members turn out to ride and support events in greater numbers.

Richard thanked Colin for taking over the position.

Social Secretary's Report

Richard referred to the camping weekend as our main social event which, headed by Jo was again a great success and he thanked her for this. Neville is organising the weekend this year and Richard wished him luck

Chairman's Report

Looking back over 2011 I am aware that commitments to other events have prevented me from attending the majority of trials. However I have also seen how fortunate the club is in having a strong committee, keen to progress the club further, and full of enthusiasm for the coming year.

The individual reports presented by the members often belie the hard work that has gone into their role and my thanks to them all for their efforts and support. I do not intend to revisit issues that these reports have adequately covered.

I would like however to use this opportunity to thank some particular members of the committee:

Rob Edwards and family, who have stepped in to run the majority of training trials in my absence.

Malcolm, who is stepping down from the committee, but who was a very strong force in setting up and running trials, and frequently found setting out club trials.

Pete and Jo Jenkins: Pete, who despite not being the competition secretary for some time has borne a lot of the responsibility for running events, and Jo for her hard work in the last year and previous years in running the camping weekend. In addition they continue to allow us to use their premises as a store.

The committee has tried hard over the last year to run the club for the benefit of its members and to make changes only where this is to the membership's advantage.

The change of meeting place has attracted more members to the social night and we are going to try and develop the evening further. The current financial situation may lead to competitors

seeking or returning to the generally less costly world of motorcycle trials and RRND is in a good position to welcome those competitors and provide good sport now and into the future.

Election to Committee

Richard explained that every year it is standard practice that the whole Committee stands down and is re-elected by the members. This year all Committee members are up for re-election, with the exception of Malcolm Coles who will be standing down as Assistant Competition Secretary. However, all positions are offered to the Club.

Following this, Colin's was elected to the committee as Competition Secretary and the remaining existing Committee members were unanimously voted in en-bloc, proposed by Antony Read and seconded by Rick Parish.

The 2012 Committee are:-

Chairman	Richard Coles
Secretary	Carol Dark
Treasurer	Jo Jenkins
Club Publications Editor	Debbie Don
Competition Secretary	Colin Don
Membership Secretary	Rob Edwards
Assistant Competition Secretary	Stuart Read
Social Secretary	Jo Jenkins
Committee Members	Pete Jenkins, Dave Charman, Danny Haste,

Any Other Business

The subject of evening trials was raised. Colin explained that this year we would be running Saturday barbecue trials instead as evening trials were difficult to run and there had not been enough support, particularly in bad weather. Antony suggested we could advertise to see if anyone wanted to run one and if so Colin would be happy to arrange a permit.

A night trial was also suggested, possibly at the camping weekend for bikes with lights.

Presentation of Awards

Richard presented the individual awards.

The Committee Cup was awarded to Brian Edwards for continuing to do the club trial results throughout the year.

The Clubman's Cup was awarded to Rob Edwards.

Antony proposed a vote of thanks to the committee (particularly the three non-riding lady members) and the meeting closed at 9.05pm.